REMARKS

The objections to Claims 10-13 have been addressed by the foregoing amendments.

The rejections of Claims 10-13 as being anticipated by the Oberg publication under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and of Claims 14 and 15 as being unpatentable over the Oberg et al. publication in view of the Nixon et al. publication under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments.

In the present invention, the operation device (CRT display device 33 in Figs. 4 and 7) in the central control room (central control room 3 in Fig. 4) electrically connects to the wireless transceivers (36) via the network (35) to establish communication between the operation device (33) and the mobile operation terminal (operation personal computer 30 in Figs. 5 to 7) through the network (35) and the wireless transceivers (36). The mobile operation terminal (30) directly operates the power plant equipment (power plant equipment 31 in Fig. 6 and 7) by issuing an alternative to an operation request issued by the operation device (installed in the central control room) and transmitting the alternative operation request to the control device (control devices 32 in Figs. 6

and 7) via the wireless transceiver (36) and the network (35) without making contact with the central control room.

The specification refers to Figs. 5 to 7 which show an alternative operation by the mobile operation terminal (30) instead of the operation device (33). Specifically, Fig. 6 shows the alternative operation request (reference sign c) issued from the mobile operation terminal (30), and Fig. 7 shows cancellation request (reference sign d) as an example of the alternate operation request.

Operation of the power plant equipment "without making contact with the central control room", is described at page 9, line 28, to page 10, line 1, and the worksite operator 11 monitoring or observing the plant equipment 31 is allowed to directly operate the plant equipment 31 from the plant worksite 4 by use of the on-site CRT operation function, thereby reducing necessary labor and manpower considerably as described at page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 2.

The operation device (33) in the central control room (3) enables display of the state information concerning the above alternative operation request issued from the mobile operation terminal on a screen of the operation device (33).

Fig. 7 shows that the mobile operation terminal (30) issues the cancellation request data (reference sign d), and the operation device (33) receives the cancellation request data (reference sign e) and displays state information concerning the cancellation request on the screen (12) of the operation device (33). Page 11, lines 4 to 9 of the specification teach that "When the tag is canceled, the CRT display device 33 in the central control room 3 automatically displays a message (indicating the cancellation of the tag) on a tagging operation screen 12 in order to inform the operators of the cancellation".

The now-claimed features are neither taught nor suggested by the Oberg et al. and Nixon et al. publications alone or even in hypothetical combinations.

The Oberg et al. publication only states that mobile wireless device 100 is connected over a communication link 104 to a wireless access point 106. The wireless access point 106 is connected to a control system interface 110 through a data network 108. The control system interface 110 is able to send and receive information from the central control system 118, thereby connecting the mobile device 102 to the central control system 118. The control system interface 110 sends query and control instructions 114 to the central control system 118 [0036]. Fig. 1 of the Oberg et al. publication shows a serial connection between the process section 120 to wireless access points through the central control system 118 and the control system interface 110.

The wireless mobile operation terminal disclosed by the Oberg et al. publication communicates with the central control system 118 via the control system interface 110 to control the process section 120 (see Fig. 1). That is, the wireless mobile operation terminal controls the process section via the central operation devices in the central control room.

In contrast, the network configuration of the present invention is that the central operation device (33) in the central control room and the central device (32) connect with the network 35 in parallel to each other as shown in Fig. 7. In other words, the mobile operation terminal (3) of the present invention can control the plant equipment (31) by transmitting the alternative operation to the control device 32 without contact with the central control room. This important feature of the present invention is not even hinted at in the Oberg et al. publication. In addition, the Oberg et al. publication does not suggest that the operation device in the central control room enables a display of the state information concerning the alternative operation request issued from the mobile operation terminal on a screen of the operation device.

The Nixon et al. publication is certainly no better than the Oberg et al. publication in terms of what it suggests relative to the present invention.

The Nixon et al. publication shows only a shared viewer that can be manipulated by both of the host computer 14 and the portable computer 30 [0051]. The Nixon et al. publication says nothing about shared instructions (the operation request by the operation device and the alternative operation request by the mobile operation terminal). Nor does it suggest issuing an alternative to an operation request issued by the operation device to the control device via the wireless transceiver and the network without making contact with the central control room, or the operation device being capable of displaying state information concerning the alternative operation request issued from the mobile operation terminal on the screen thereof.

Applicants further submit that impermissible hindsight reconstruction has been employed in the hypothetical combination of the Oberg et al. and Nixon et al. teachings. The motivation alleged in paragraph 6 of the Office Action is pure hindsight and is not based upon any teaching on either of the cited publications or, for that matter, any of the cited prior art. The achieved overall flexibility is that achieved solely by the present invention and not by anything previously taught.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.51548C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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